

FORAGE FIRST

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Environmental Stewardship Award Presented to Our Association by BCCA

At the 71st Annual General Meeting of the B.C. Cattlemen's Association in Smithers in late May the 1999 B.C. Cattlemen's Environmental Stewardship Award was presented to the Peace River Forage Association of British Columbia.

As part of a larger program sponsored by the Canadian Cattlemen's Association, the BCCA presents an award for Environmental Stewardship to a worthy group or individual who are recognized as advancing the cause of good environmental management at a high level in their livestock and forage operations.

An information package regarding this prestigious award is included with this newsletter.

Annual General Meeting December 1, 1999 at Taylor

On Wednesday December 1, 1999 the Annual General meeting of the Peace River Forage Association of British Columbia will be held at the Lone Wolf Golf Club in Taylor, B.C. from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. All members, supporters and forage enthusiasts are invited to attend. We have an excellent guest speaker lined up: Rod Carlyon, Alberta Ag-Food-Rural Development Beef Specialist from Westlock. He will be addressing the topic: "**Capturing Profits from your Forage with your Beef Cattle**". We look forward to seeing you in Taylor. Please refer to the agenda for this AGM in this issue of "Forage First".

Forage Seminar Slated for Tuesday, January 25,2000 at Farmington Community Hall

Our theme for this daylong Seminar will be:

"Blending Environmental Stewardship with Economics: Forage Management for the New Millennium"

We expect to have knowledgeable speakers on this program addressing the following important topics:

- A Satisfactory Wildlife Policy for Northeast British Columbia
- Advantages of good water quality for Livestock
- Endophytes in Livestock feed
- Economic Grazing Management Techniques.

Editorial



The **Alberta Forage Council** has moved from Three Hills to the **Peace River Country**. Their new address is: Box 879, Beaverlodge, Alberta TOH OCO. Phone or fax (780)354-8854. Congratulations to Brenda Schoepp on being appointed new manager of the AFC. She is joined on the executive by Greg Griffin - North Peace Forage Association, Fairview; Owen Lee - South Peace Forage Association, Grand Prairie; Gerald Soroka - West Central Forage Association, Evansburg; Todd McKinnon - Foothills Forage Association, Calgary. For a copy of the AFC Strategic plan or other information, contact Brenda.

A **Peace Country Silage Workshop** is being held Tuesday, November 30, 1999 in Rycroft Community Hall, Rycroft, Alberta. Sponsored by the Alberta Forage Council, six well qualified speakers will cover the entire silage spectrum. \$20.00 lunch included. For further information please contact: (780) 835-2291 Greg or Lynn or (780)538-8027 Pat.

A big thank you to the **Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration** in Dawson Creek and **Ducks Unlimited Canada** in Prince George for financial assistance with our portable, solar livestock watering system Demo Project.

Summer Forage - Feedlot Tour Successful - A busload of forage enthusiasts enjoyed the Summer Tour to the Westlock-Barrhead area, hosted by the South Peace Feeder Co-op and the Peace River Forage Association of B.C. Thank yous are in order to the major sponsors: Alberta Ag Bag - Jim Rakai, Bank of Montreal, B.C. Forage Council B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food, CIBC, Dawson Creek Visitor Information, Gateway Organization, Wayne McNary - Nilsson Bros. Ltd., Pfizer and the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration. Thanks to those who organized and conducted the tour; Heather Fossum BCFC summer student, Jim Craig and Ian Pickering of the PFRA and Rod Carlyon - Beef specialist with Alberta Ag Food, Rural Development,. Thanks also to Garth and Rose Bibby, the "Hayshakers", Kerry Metke and Trevor Kloeck of GRO, Connie Patterson, South Peace Feeders, David Woywitka, cow calf and feedlot owners. And last but not least: thanks to Schmidts, Jubilee and Gonnet Feedlots, GRO Demo pastures, Walter Lentz, Bernie Kasholm, Ray Galas, Ken Hodges at the Transfeeder Timothy compact plant, Wayne Rimmer, Mike and Ken Anderson and Lorrie Jespersen at Thunderlake. A great deal was learned concerning feedlot operations, livestock watering systems, cattle processing, new forage varieties, grazing management and silage preparation.

Winter Forage Club Meetings Everyone welcome to Bill and Brenda Wilsons at Mile Zero Farm, Dawson Creek. 7:30 p.m. Thursday November 18, 1999 (250) 782-2866

We are taking this opportunity to welcome Murray Clark and Ducks Unlimited and their **B.C. Prairie Care Program** to the B.C. Peace River Country. You can reach Murray at (250) 561-0008.

Are you interested in compacted oat green feed for export? Think it over; there may be an opportunity!

1999 Directors of the Peace River Forage Association of British Columbia

Don Pedersen	Doug Bentley	Brian Clarke	Ernest Nimitz	Fred Burres	Phil Haight	Michael Cowge
President	Vice President	Treasurer	Secretary	Director	Director	Director
782-2474	843-7364	789-9254	784-7080	843-7074	843-7687	787-1790

Committee Chairmen: R & D, Glenn Hogberg 843-7653; Wildlife Policy, Burnem Grant 786-5566;
Communications and Information, Ernest Nimitz

Cross Commodity Manager Project

Activity Summary by Quarter July 1 - September 30, 1999

By Sandra Burton, P.Ag.

A. Office Organization/Steering Committee Business:

An expanded office separate from the Burton-Kabzems home has been set up. Two private telephone lines were installed and office equipment upgraded. An Internet server was selected and an account set up. Separate accounts were set up at Tiger's Stationary for all three associations, and some initial office supplies purchased. Organized telephone lists, email addresses and speed dials for batch faxes to directors took some time but will improve efficiency in the future. The Steering Committee requested that the Cross Commodity Manager draft the contract for this project, after reviewing several styles of contracts and memorandums of agreement. This was discussed at length with committee members and advisors. Revisions were made so that the contract can be signed at the next Steering Committee meeting. Systems to document conversation records, task lists and time tracking have been set up; to assist the Steering Committee in monitoring time allocations and priority setting for never ending task lists. It's been a busy time of year for farmers, so all three producer associations seek assistance from the Cross Commodity Manager (CCM) on an "on call" basis. The CCM has responded to a variety of requests from the three associations as needed, each requiring a different set of skills. There is potential for increased efficiency by being able to dedicate whole days or half days to each association's tasks.

Total time spent August 1 - September 30, 1999 was equally allocated to the three Associations.

B. B.C. Grain Producers Association

Tasks for the B.C. Grain Producers Association to date have been issue orientated. CCM has been complimenting the efforts of directors and committee members working on B.C. Rail/grain transportation issues, Safety Nets programs, proposed Workers' Compensation Board rate increases and Gri-food Policy. Communication links have been established with editors of Northern Horizon and Canola Digest and news articles have been submitted. The CCM helped organize 3 directors/committee meetings, record minutes and define action plans arising from the discussions. Considerable time is also spent discussing issues with individuals outside of meetings. BCGPA mail is picked up, sorted and forwarded to appropriate directors/committees.

Total time spent August 1 to September 30, 1999 was 29% of total.

C. Peace River Forage Association of B.C.

The CCM's work for the Peace River Forage Association of B.C. has involved considerable consultation with a variety of resource people. She has assisted the members of the Research and Development committee to refine and prioritize the projects within their B.C. Peace River Country Forage Development strategy paper. She has met with representatives from funding agencies, association advisors committee chairmen and directors to try to match funding with project objectives. The PRFA of B.C. have had three directors/committee meetings in this quarter. The CCM booked space, arranged for a key, organized agendas and assisted the Secretary with copying and organizing materials for those meetings. Helping plan their AGM on December 1 and a Forage Seminar on January 25th has also kept her busy contacting speakers, caterers and sponsors. CCM met with several people to get photographs for display updates or calendar projects over the next months.

Total time spent Aug. 1 to Sept 30, 1999 was 32 % of total.

D. Peace Region Forage Seed Association

The major activities for the Peace Region Forage Seed Association have been promotional in nature. CCM has been assisting the directors launch a Producers Voluntary Research Fund this fall. They have been working with a contractor, Jessica Kant, to develop brochures, posters and other promotional materials. The CCM organized is also helping the directors organize a major conference in Edmonton; 2000 Canadian Alfalfa and Forage Seed Conference on January 20 -22, 2000. Her duties have included reviewing draft agendas and compiling a conference brochures..

Total time spent August 1 - September 30, 1999 was 39% of total.

Special Projects

To date there have no applications from other organizations for the uncommitted portion of the CCM's time.

Total CCM time July 1 - Sept. 30th 31 days.

The hiring process was not completed until the end of July; hence I began my work in August. I look forward to the challenges of this position and to improving my efficiency and effectiveness as your Cross Commodity Manager.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Lone Wolf Golf Club

1:00 p.m. Wednesday December 1, 1999 Taylor, B.C.

Peace River Forage Association of B.C.

Agenda

1. **Call to order and approval of Agenda.**
2. **Minutes from December 1998 AGM**
3. **Association Business, Directors and Committee Activities in 1999.**
 - A. Correspondence
 - B. Presidents Report
 - C. Auditors Report
 - D. Treasurer's Financial Reports
 1. General Association Account 1036-796
 2. Project Account 1038-791
 3. Project Account 1042-758
 - E. Advisory Committee Report
4. **Guest Speaker - Rod Carlyon, Beef Specialist, Alberta Ag-Food-Rural Development, Westlock**
Topic: "Capturing Profits from you Forage with your Beef Cattle"
5. **Coffee and Refreshments Break**
6. **Cross Commodity Manager Report, Sandra Burton, P.Ag.**
7. **Association Business, Directors and Committee Activities in 1999 (continued)**
 - F. Nominations for Directors (Directors whose terms are expiring: Don Pedersen, Brian Clarke, Phil Haight)
 - G. Secretary's Report
 - H. Wildlife Policy Development Committee Report
 - I. Research and Development Committee Report
 - J. B.C. Forage Council Report
8. **Association Business and Programs Planned for 2000**
 - A. Election of three Directors
 - B. Election of two Auditors
 - C. Winter Forage Seminar January 25,2000 at Farmington
 - D. Summer Forage Tour June 2000 (Father's Day Weekend) Hudson Hope and Peace River Valley
 - E. R & D Projects
 - F. Hiring a Forage Technician type person to assist with Association Business and Projects
 - G. Working with Sandra Burton, the Cross Commodity Manager
 - H. Forage First & Communications Projects
 - I. Wildlife Policy Projects
 - J. Steering Committee to Pursue "Making Money by Keeping our Calves at Home and Grazing and Marketing our Lush Forage Resources".
 - K. Winter Forage Club Meetings
 - L. Any other pertinent business matter or forage subjects which the membership wish to bring to the floor for discussion.
9. **Adjournment**

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Director's Business Meeting and Supper to follow the AGM 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Preceding the AGM, Directors met for lunch and business at 10:00 am

For Further Information please phone Sandra @ (250) 789-6885 or fax at (250) 789-6884.